Online gamblers in NJ expected to triple in 2014

Written by Lorraine Ash Daily Record
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app.com

MORRISTOWN — New Jersey is awash in advertising for its new, online gambling universe, which has come alive since November's soft launch.

As of Jan. 31, a total of 197,782 accounts had been created -- a 27 percent jump since mid-January, according to the New Jersey Division of Gaming Enforcement. Monthly revenues from Internet gaming also leaped ahead, totaling $9.5 million in January, up 28 percent from $7.4 million in December.

Gamblers say they feel comfortable playing on regulated sites where they know they'll get their money. And the buzz among politicians and analysts is that online gambling, if New Jersey plays its cards right, could attract billions in revenue and thousands of high-tech jobs to the state.

Also, the state levies a 15 percent tax on online gambling revenue versus the 8 percent tax on revenue from brick-and-mortar casinos.

Second Advanced Lawsuit (vs DMC), Full Tilt Poker, Ultimate Poker, Cereal Killer Poker, Bodog (vs Nevada), TjCow

Jersey's sites to players in other states and to the $33 billion worldwide online gaming market. Nevada, Delaware and New Jersey are the only states that now allow online gaming; Nevada offers only online poker, while Delaware and New Jersey offer all games online.

Michael "Gags30" Gagliano, a Rockaway, native and professional poker player, is enjoying the New Jersey sites, particularly www.wsop.com because of its software and the Borgata/Party network because it has lots of players and games. On a given day, the 29-year-old may play 50 tournaments and cash out

chance to play for not a lot of money or even for free. Everything is available. You can also play thousands of dollars."

Muny said some women have told him they feel less intimidated playing online. "Nobody makes fun of their moves as they're learning," he said.

Even before New Jersey legalized Internet poker, Muny said, the online game revived the game in brick-and-mortar casinos.

"Online poker really brought that excitement and spark back into the game," he said. "Also, now that online poker is licensed, you can actually cross market. I'm at Harrah's right now, and there's an ad inviting me to play on their website."

Lesniak wants to open the New Jersey online gambling market even wider. His recently introduced bill would do three things. First, it would allow New Jersey to enter into agreements with other states that allow their residents to play on New Jersey sites.

Second, the bill would allow New Jersey to enter into agreements with other countries so their residents can play on New Jersey sites. (Nine other states are now considering legalizing or expanding Internet gambling -- California, Colorado, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Mississippi and Pennsylvania, according to a survey by GamblingCompliance.)

Third, the bill would require payment processors to be licensed by the state, a move Lesniak hopes will give banks confidence to allow their credit cards to be used.

If New Jersey allowed its online gambling sites to open to other domestic and global markets, annual revenues could go into the billions, Ozimek said. And as many as 16,000 new jobs will find their way to New Jersey.

Gros, who also publishes www.iGamingPlayer.com, said New Jersey made a wise move when it became one of the first states to earnestly embrace online gaming.

"Nevada has about 3 million people and Delaware has about 900,000," he said. "There's not enough population in either state to sustain an online casino indust teoroT 1 - the first states i2re halmot s9TjETBT/F